

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 291045
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291045

FOL RPT PRETORIA 6598 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO OTTAWA PARIS USUN NY 4 DEC 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 6598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, WA, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SECURITY POLICE DETAIN SWAPO LEADERS

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES ON RUMORS OF ARRESTS IN
NAMIBIA OF SWAPO (INTERNAL) OFFICIALS, DFA GAVE US THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON DEC 3, ELEVEN SWAPO (INTERNAL) OFFICIALS WERE ARRESTED
IN OVAMBO BY THE SECURITY POLICE UNDER AG PROCLAMATION 9
(WHICH REPLACED R17--PRETORIA 6116, 6053). THOSE ARRESTED
INCLUDED: DAN TJONGARERO (SWAPO INFORMATION SECRETARY);
TAUNO HATUIKILIP (SWAPO TREASURER); MARTHA FORD (SWAPO
NAMIBIAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SWAPO EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE); JUSTIN ELLIS (SECRETARY OF THE CHRISTIAN
CENTER); A MISS HAMUTENJA; AND A MR. BERNADUS.

2. DFA TOLD US THAT THEY HAD TALKED TO JOHN VIAL,.
ASSISTANT TO THE AG IN WONDHOEK, WHO SAID HE HAD HEARD
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THE NEWS ON THE RADIO AND CONTACTED THE POLICE. THE
POLICE EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD CALLED IN ONE OF THE SWAPO
FIGURES IN CONNECTION WITH A DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS PRESUMED
TO BE ILLEGAL. SUBSEQUENTLY THEY HAD ARRESTED THE OTHER
SWAPO OFFICIALS INCLUDING TJONGARERO. VIAL SAID HE
TOLD THE POLICE THIS EXPLANATION WAS UNSATISFACTORY AND HE HAD
URGED THEM TO MAKE PUBLIC THE BASIS FOR THEIR ACTION. VIAL

SAID THE AG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLICE ACTION AND
AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES IN WIKDHOEK, TJONGARERO
AND SOME OR ALL OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD GONE TO OVAMBO
TO ATTEND AN ECONOMIC SEMINAR AND OTHER MEETINGS ARRANGED
BY THE CHRISTIAN CENTER (A MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL NAMIBIAN
CHRISTIAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION).

4. IN A SUBSEQUENT CALL TO US THIS EVENING, DEC 4, DFA SAID
THAT FOUR OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD BEEN RELEASED AND SIX OTHER
INCLUDING TJONGARERO, WOULD BE FREED TOMORROW. BERNADUS WOULD NOT
BE FREED TOMORROW. DFA SAID THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON SUSPICION
OF CONTACT WITH TERRORISTS. DFA EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLICE
HAD ACTED ON THEIR OWN AND NOT UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE
AG; THE AG HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRESTS. DFA
REITERATED THAT THE AG WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES.

5. WINDHOEK JOURNALISTS CLIVE COWLEY AND KURT DAHLMAN
SPECULATED PRIVATELY THAT THE SECURITY POLICE AND OTHERS
UNHAPPY WITH THE ABROGATION OF R17 HAD ACTED TO EMBARRASS
THE AG.
BOWDLER

UNQUOTE VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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